

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 2 and 26 have been amended to specify that the reactor contains a zone configured to preheat at least one of an oxygen containing gas and water/steam. Support for these amendments can be found in the Specification at, for example, pp. 13-14, and in Fig. 4. Claim 11 has been amended to correct an obvious spelling error. New Claim 50 has been added to recite a reactor for generating a hydrogen-rich reformate from hydrocarbons. Support for this claim can be found in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, and the related text in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Election of Claims

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated April 8, 2005, the claims of Group II (Claims 1-20, 25-32 and 37-49), drawn to an apparatus for generating hydrogen rich reformate from hydrocarbon feed, are elected for prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicant does not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

Responsive to the requirement for an election of species for searching purposes, Applicant hereby elects Species a-2 as the species. Claims readable on the elected species are Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 16-19, 25, 27-29, 37, 39, 40 and 42-50.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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